



Iowa Outdoors

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
www.iowadnr.com

www.iowanaturestore.com

Editor: Mick Klemesrud, 515/281-8653
mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us

Nov. 7, 2006

1. Fall Archery Hunt Nearing its Peak – by Lowell Washburn [electronic photos available]
2. Hearings Set on Proposed Dock Rules

[Electronic photos available]

FALL ARCHERY HUNT NEARING ITS PEAK

By Lowell Washburn

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

For Iowa's 30,000-plus archery deer hunters, the best ten days of the season are at hand. The annual rut is approaching its peak, and monster whitetails are on the prowl.

In most Iowa counties, the fall rut will have reached its peak by mid-November. By then most bucks will have brazenly forsaken their nocturnal lifestyles. Trophy stags that have remained invisible during the previous 11 months of the year will boldly and suddenly appear in broad daylight. Locked into a perpetual search mode, they relentlessly cruise ridge tops, river bottoms, and brushy draws in the hopes of finding does. Sometimes, these wandering bucks find rival males instead. When that happens, the Iowa timbers resound with the distinctive clash of dueling antlers.

As the rut reaches its crescendo, the hunt acquires a new dimension. Restless and itching for a scrap, bucks and plenty of them, are now on the move 24/7. Consequently, bow hunting is no longer a sunrise/sunset proposition. These days there is no such thing as a bad time to be in your tree stand. Hunting at noon is often as productive as being out at daylight.

With the scales suddenly tipped in their favor, hunters vigorously employ every trick in the book to arouse the curiosity [or anger] of mature bucks. Vigorously rattling a set of antlers to create a make believe fight is the bow hunter's staple. Other tactics include doe [bleat] calls, grunt tube calls, and decoys.

But even now, the big bucks don't come easy. Tagging one still requires ample amounts of scouting, woodsmanship, and above all -- patience. But when the buck of

lifetime finally steps into full view, there is no question that all the work, loss of sleep, and other personal sacrifices were well worth the effort.

###

HEARINGS SET ON PROPOSED DOCK RULES

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is hosting three public meetings to discuss the proposed changes to dock rules on public waters. Meetings are scheduled for Nov. 28 in Clear Lake, Nov. 29, in Spirit Lake, and Nov. 30 in Des Moines. All meetings officially begin at 7 p.m.

The DNR will be available at each location from 3 to 6 p.m. to answer questions in an informal open house setting. “We are hopeful that we can answer a lot of individual dock specific questions during the open house period, then focus on presenting the proposal and accepting formal comments during the official public meeting in the evening,” said Lowell Joslin, chief of the DNR’s law enforcement bureau.

Copies of the current and proposed rules are on the Iowa DNR website www.iowadnr.com, then click on law enforcement. Comments may be submitted through the webpage as well. Click on Submit Your Comments Here, enter your name and address, then add the comments and submit. All comments must be received by Nov. 30.

The meeting locations are Nov. 28, Clear Lake Community Room, 15 N. 6th Street, in Clear Lake, Nov. 29, Spirit Lake Community Center, 1602 15th Street, in Spirit Lake, and Nov. 30 in the Wallace State Office Bldg., Auditorium, 502 E. 9th St., in Des Moines.

Written comments may be mailed to Law Enforcement Bureau, Attn: Lowell Joslin, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0034 or faxed to 515-281-6794. People who wish to convey their views orally should call 515-281-4515 or go to the law enforcement offices on the fourth floor of the Wallace Building.

For more information, contact Joslin at 515-281-5919.

###